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SUBJECT Organization of 2nd Komendatura,
68th Border Detachment

DATE OF INFORMATION

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The border komendatura was a tactical border troop unit (podrazdeleniye 50X1 which ranked with a battalion. Just as in the Army, border troop units in Soviet military terminology were classified according to size in the following way:

a. Soyedineniye: border districts, and border detachments of the first (divisional rank) and second (brigade rank) category.

b. Chast': border detachments of the third (regimental rank) category.

c. Podrazdeleniye: border komendatury all of which were of battalion rank, except for two or three of regimental rank. As far as I can remember, these exceptions which had regimental rank were:

- (1) One separate (otdel'naya) komendatura in the Kazakh Border District (with District Headquarters at Alma-Ata).
- (2) One separate komendatura somewhere in the Far East.
- (3) One separate komendatura of regimental rank was to be organized within the Turkmenian Border District (Ashkhabad N 37-57, E 58-237) in summer 1953. The CO of this komendatura was to be Lt. Col. GOLOVKO, and his Chief of Staff was to be Maj. GREBENYUK. I learned this from Maj. GREBENYUK, a personal friend of mine, who was on duty with Headquarters, 68th Border Detachment.

Separate komendatury were directly subordinate to border districts.

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2. The 2nd Komendatura included a headquarters, five line companies (zastavy; four to seven were allowable), one reserve zastava, and one service and supply zastava.
3. The organization of the Komendatura Headquarters was as follows
/See Annex A/:
 - a. The CO of the Komendatura (Nachal'nik komendatury) had two deputies: a Deputy for Political Matters (Zamestitel' po politicheskoy chasti), Sr. Lt. GORKUNENKO; and a Deputy for Rear Services (Zamestitel' po snabzheniyu), Capt. RADIONOV. A representative of the /then/ MGB counter intelligence (OKR) was attached to but was not subordinate to the CO. His superior was the Chief, OKR, of the 68th Border Detachment.
 - b. The Chief of Staff, Capt. KARLOV, had the following subordinate to him:
 - (1) Senior Deputy Chief of Staff (obshchiy pomoshchnik), Capt. ZINOV'EV, and one clerk sergeant. Capt. ZINOV'EV was responsible for combat readiness of the Komendatura's units and for the entire administration of Komendatura Headquarters.
 - (2) Deputy Chief of Staff for Cipher Service, Sr. Lt. TRIBUSHININ.
 - (3) First, or Intelligence Section, with Capt. GREBENYUK as Chief of Section. Three officers, two interpreter sergeants, and one female sergeant who was a typist were on duty with this Section.
 - c. The following Sections were directly subordinate to the CO of the Komendatura:
 - (1) Communications Section, with Sr. Lt. PROKOPCHIK as Chief of Section.
 - (2) Medical Section (MedPunkt), headed by a medical assistant (feldsher), who had a small dispensary of five to 10 beds for minor cases.
 - (3) Veterinary Section (VetPunkt), headed by a veterinary assistant. This Section had a veterinary dispensary which could accommodate three to five horses.
 - d. The Deputy for Rear Services had one warehouse where a 30-day food supply for the Komendatura's units was stored. Another 30-day food supply of so-called "iron rations" (NZ) was supposed to be stored by each zastava. In practice, however, this rule was never observed, and normally neither the Komendatura nor the zastavy had more than a few days supply of food. Transportation at the disposal of the Deputy for Rear Services consisted of one water truck, and two or three GAZ-151 trucks. All of these trucks were on the T/E of the Service and Supply Zastava.
 - e. The Deputy for Political Matters had the following assistants:
 - (1) Secretary of the Party Bureau, Capt. DEMENT'EV.
 - (2) Secretary of the Komsomol Bureau, Lt. KONSTANTINOV.

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4. The five line zastavy of the 2nd Komendatura had numbers from six through ten. All zastavy within the Detachment bore consecutive numbers starting with number one at the far right of the Detachment's border sector. The Commanding Officers of zastavy subordinate to the 2nd Komendatura were:
- a. Sixth Zastava, Capt. ZHIRNYY
 - b. Seventh Zastava, Maj. GOLUB
 - c. Eighth Zastava, Capt. VOROSHILOV
 - d. Ninth Zastava, Capt. MASALOV
 - e. Tenth Zastava, Sr. Lt. SAMOYLOV
 - f. Reserve Zastava, Capt. KOVSHOV
 - g. Service and Supply Zastava, Sr. Lt. ZAMAZCHIKOV
5. According to the T/O, border troops could have three types of line zastavy:
- a. First category - composed of 60-64 men.
 - b. Second category - composed of 50 men.
 - c. Third category - composed of 38-42 men.

There was no rule that each komendatura had to have all its line zastavy of the same category. For instance, the T/O of the 2nd Komendatura envisaged the Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, and Ninth Line Zastavy as being of the first category and the Tenth Zastava of the second category. Actually, however, the prescribed strength of the T/O was never adhered to and the strength of my first category zastavy was 50 men instead of 60-64 men.

6. The 2nd Komendatura had one reserve zastava stationed at Kushka N 35-16, E 62-24 together with the Komendatura Headquarters. The T/O strength of this zastava was 50-60 men (which varied from one komendatura to another). For instance, my reserve zastava had 60 men, whereas the reserve zastava of the 1st Komendatura of the 68th Border Detachment had only 50 men. The reserve zastava was used as a maneuver group and for strengthening line zastavy when needed. I do not know what the criteria were for the assignment of reserve zastavy to Komendatury, since some had a reserve zastava while others did not. 50X1
- District , I remember that all its komendatury had reserve zastavy. In the 68th Border Detachment the First, Second and Third Komendatury had reserve zastavy. I do not know whether or not the 4th Komendatura had a reserve zastava.
7. The 2nd Komendatura also had one Service and Supply Zastava stationed in Kushka together with Komendatura Headquarters. The T/O strength of this Zastava was 62 men.
8. I have presented a detailed T/O & E of the 2nd Komendatura Annex B.
9. The detailed organization of zastavy within the 2nd Komendatura was as follows:

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- a. Line Border Cavalry Zastava (Lineynaya Pogranichnaya kavaleriyskaya zastava - LPZ). All zastavy within the 2nd Komendatura were of the cavalry type /See below/.

(1) Officers

3

- (a) Commander (major or captain)
- (b) Deputy Commander
- (c) Deputy Commander for Political Matters (both deputies with the rank of Sr. Lt. or Lt.)

(2) Rifle Sections - 3 per 10 men.
Each rifle section was composed of:

30

- (a) Section Leader (Sr. sergeant or sergeant)
- (b) Assistant Section Leader (sergeant or corporal)
- (c) Privates (8)

(3) Heavy Machine Gun Section (one with five men):

5

- (a) Section Leader (Sr. sergeant or sergeant)
- (b) Assistant Section Leader (sergeant or corporal)
- (c) Privates (3)

(4) Dog Section (one with four men):

4

- (a) Section Leader (trainer) (Sr. sergeant or sergeant)
- (b) Privates (2-3)

(5) Headquarters Section (Khozyaystvennoye otdeleniye)
(one with five men) composed of:

5

- (a) Master sergeant (starshina)
- (b) Supply room sergeant (kaptenarmus)
- (c) Baker
- (d) Cook
- (e) Driver

According to the T/O, the baker, cook and driver could be sergeant, corporal, or private.

(6) Signal Section (one with three men):

3

- (a) Senior Signalman (sergeant)
- (b) Signalman (2) (corporal or private)

Total

50 men

This was the actual T/O of all line zastavy within the 2nd Komendatura, notwithstanding the fact that the T/O called for four zastavy of the first category and one of the second category. Each of my line zastavy was supposed to have 49 riding horses for all the personnel except for the driver assigned to Headquarters Section who had a horse-drawn wagon and two towing horses. Actually, however, none of my zastavy ever had more than 35 to 40 riding horses. A line border infantry zastava had the same T/O & E except that it had only five instead of 49 riding horses. The five horses were assigned to three officers and two orderlies.

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b. Reserve Zastava (Rezervnaya zastava - RZ)

- | | |
|--|--------|
| (1) Officers: | 3 |
| (a) Commander (major or captain) | |
| (b) Deputy Commander | |
| (c) Deputy Commander for Political Matters (both
deputies had the rank of Sr. Lt. or Lt.) | |
| (2) Rifle Section - 5 per 10 men | 50 |
| Each rifle section was composed of: | |
| (a) Section Leader (Sr. sergeant or sergeant) | |
| (b) Assistant Section Leader (sergeant or corporal) | |
| (c) Privates (8) | |
| (3) Headquarters Section (one with six men),
composed of: | 6 |
| (a) Master sergeant | |
| (b) Supply room sergeant | |
| (c) Baker (corporal or private) | |
| (d) Cook (corporal or private) | |
| (e) Horse-drawn wagon driver (corporal or private) | |
| (f) GAZ-151 truck driver (corporal or private) | |
| (4) Dog Section | 1 |
| (a) Trainer (sergeant) | — |
| Total | 60 men |

The Reserve Zastava had on its T/O five riding horses assigned to three officers and two orderlies. Reserve zastavy could be provided with riding horses for all personnel, in which case they would be called reserve cavalry zastavy. The Reserve Zastava attached to my Komendatura was of the infantry type and for that reason had only five riding horses.

c. Service and Supply Zastava (Zastava boyevogo obespecheniya)

- | | |
|---|----|
| (1) Officers: | 2 |
| (a) Commander (major or captain) | |
| (b) Deputy Commander (Sr. Lt. or Lt.) | |
| (2) Deputy Commander for Supply (Zamestitel' po
khozyaystvennoy chastl) (Sr. sergeant or sergeant) | 1 |
| (3) Deputy Commander for Political Matters
(Sr. sergeant or sergeant) | 1 |
| (4) Rifle Section (two per 10 men): | 20 |
| (a) Section Leader (Sr. sergeant or sergeant) | |
| (b) Assistant Section Leader (sergeant or corporal) | |
| (c) Privates (8) | |
| (5) Cavalry Section (one with 10 men): | 10 |
| (a) Section Leader (Sr. sergeant or sergeant) | |
| (b) Orderlies (9) (privates for officers of the
Komendatura Headquarters) | |

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- (6) Headquarters Section or Rear Section 16
(Khozyaystvennoye otdeleniye ili otdeleniye tyla)
(one with 16 men):

- (a) Supply room sergeant
- (b) Assistant supply room sergeant
- (c) Drivers (sergeants, corporals, or privates)
- (d) Shoemakers (sergeants, corporals, or privates)
- (e) Tailors (sergeants, corporals, or privates)
- (f) Blacksmith (sergeants, corporals, or privates)
- (g) Clerks (sergeants, corporals, or privates)
- (h) Cooks (sergeants, corporals, or privates)
- (i) Wagon drivers (sergeants, corporals, or privates)
- (j) Other (sergeants, corporals, or privates)

- (7) Signal Section (one with 12 men): 12

- (a) Radio operators (sergeants or corporals)
- (b) Telephone operators (sergeants or corporals)
- (c) Electromechanics (sergeants or corporals)
- (d) Movie projector operators (sergeants or corporals)

Total

62 men

The Service and Supply Zastava had 20 riding horses and four towing horses. The riding horses were assigned as follows: three for the Service and Supply Zastava (two officers and one orderly); 17 for officers of Komendatura Headquarters and their orderlies.

10. The Komendatura T/E called for the following ammunition supplies:

- a. Carbine: each soldier was issued 60 rounds. An additional 60 rounds per carbine was stored in the zastava munitions room.
- b. Submachine gun (PPSh): two drums per 70 rounds each, or four magazines per 35 rounds each, were issued to each soldier armed with submachine gun. Total 140 rounds per submachine gun.
- c. TT pistol: two magazines per eight rounds were issued to each man armed with a TT pistol.
- d. Heavy machine gun: 500 rounds per machine gun were issued with the gun, and 500 rounds more per machine gun were stored at the zastava munitions room.
- e. Light machine gun: 282 or 294 rounds per light machine gun were issued with the gun, and 141 or 147 rounds per light machine gun were stored at the zastava munitions room. (Old-type magazines for light machine guns held 47 rounds; new ones held 49 rounds. Hence the difference, 282 or 294.)
- f. Hand grenades: two hand grenades issued to every enlisted man. Two more grenades per man were stored at the zastava munitions room.
- g. In addition to these quantities of ammunition, the zastava munitions room had a stock of approximately 8,000 to 12,000 rounds of ammunition for the weapons on its T/E; it also had approximately 15 to 20 carbines and submachine guns.
- h. The komendatura munitions room had to keep 15,000 to 20,000 rounds of ammunition for various weapons and 30 to 50 carbines and submachine guns.

Enclosure:

Annex A - Organization Chart of a Border Komendatura

Annex B - T/O & E of the 2nd Komendatura, 68th Border Detachment

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ANNEX A:

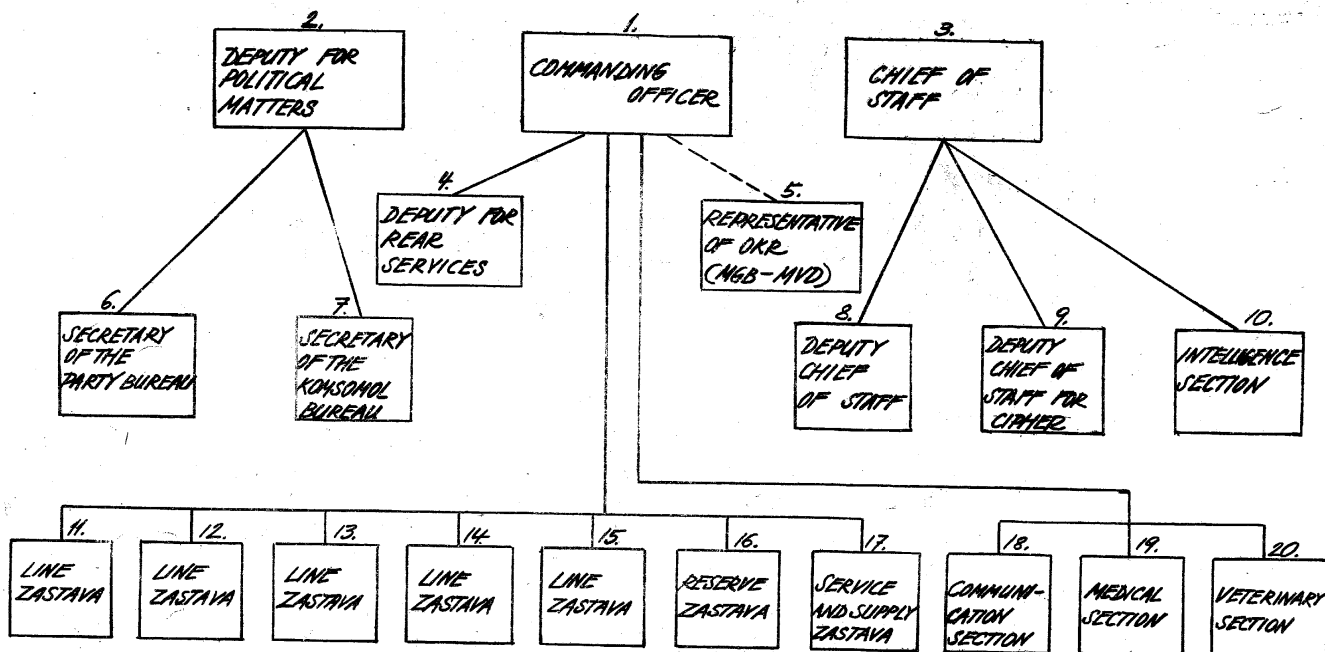
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ORGANIZATION CHART OF A BORDER KOMENDATURA.



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ANNEX B:

T/O & E of the 2nd Komendatura, 68th Border Detachment

1.	2. Unit	Personnel				Weapons and Equipment											
		Officers	NGO's	Soldiers	Total	Heavy MG (Marin)	Light MG (FPO)	Submachine Guns (FPO)	Carbines	Pistols (TT) (S)	Hand Grenades (EG-42)	Flare (H) Pistols	Binoculars 6x30 (H)	Plug Telephone Sets (H)	Horses (1)	Dogs (2)	Motor Vehicles (3)
1.	5 Line Zastava	3	7	40	50	1	3	50% of T/O: 20-25	50% of T/O: 20-25	5		12-15	8-10	15-20	2/49	1/3-4	-
2.	1 Reserve Zastava	3	7	40-50	50-60	-	3	25-30	25-30	5	man	8-10	6-8	-	2/5	1/0	1
3.	1 Service & Supply Zastava	2	15	45	62	4	3	25-30	25-30	6	per	8-10	6-8	-	4/20	-	1/3-4
4.	1 Det's Hq.	15	4	-	19	-	-	2-4	-	15-19	two	-	15	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:		35	61	285-295	381-391	5	21	152-189	150-185	51-55		76-95	67-81	75-100	18/270	6/15-20	1/4-5

(1) Numerator indicates riding horses, denominator towing horses

(2) Numerator indicates search dogs, denominator watch dogs

(3) Numerator indicates GAZ-67, denominator GAZ-151

(4) No fixed T/E

(5) Issued to: officers, NGO's on 2nd and 3rd tour of duty; master sergeants; dog trainers; interpreters, and clerks.

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